

VIII. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES AND LAND-USE PLANS, POLICIES, AND CONTROLS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how the implementation of any of the alternative plans for long-term management of SRP high-level waste conforms to or conflicts with Federal, state, and local land-use plans, policies, and controls.

The Savannah River Plant site was acquired and set aside by the U. S. Government in 1950 as a controlled area for the production of nuclear materials needed for national defense. The approximately 200,000-acre plant site is closed to the public except for guided tours, controlled deer hunts, controlled through-traffic along S. C. Highway 125 (SRP Road A), the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, and U. S. Highway 278 along the north edge of the site (see Figure III-2), and authorized environmental studies. The U. S. Forest Service has provided a program of forest management since 1951 and has reforested much of the site with productive stands of slash, loblolly, and longleaf pine.

In 1951, the University of South Carolina and the University of Georgia began studying changes in the site characteristics, and in 1961 the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory of the University of Georgia initiated studies of the effects of thermal and radioactive effluents on the site's ecology. In 1972, the SRP site was declared the Nation's first National Environmental Research Park; the site provides a large controlled area for environmental research by scientists from universities and other organizations.

The plant map (Figure III-2) shows the relatively small areas that would be required to construct facilities to implement alternative plans involving waste solidification or bedrock storage. This small increase in land use for waste management will have a commensurate minor effect, if any, on the use of the plant site for environmental research.

A South Carolina statute, that established a Nuclear Advisory Council to report to the Governor and General Assembly, states that the Council shall participate to the extent possible in the consideration of any decision concerning any proposed permanent storage of high-level waste in the State. The Department of Energy has stated its belief that it should, as a matter of policy, act in a manner consistent with the desires of the state in which waste facilities will be located. The Department also recognizes that the question of state participation in the waste facility siting process is a subject of pending Congressional approvals.

In summary, implementation of any alternatives is not expected to cause conflicts with land-use plans, policies, and controls pertaining to the Savannah River Plant site. The impact of an offsite Federal repository on national, state, and local land-use plans and programs would be addressed in the site-specific environmental statement for the repository.